

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:

(37) a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the a wearer's skin;

5 an outer cover; and

an absorbent body between the liner and the outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body comprising a first zone and a second zone, the first zone having a lower absorbent capacity per unit weight than the second zone and facilitating the flow of liquid body waste from the first zone back through the liner for indicating to the wearer the release of liquid body waste into said article, the absorbent body having a flowback after one minute according to a Flowback Test of at least about 20 grams.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent body comprises a wetness indicating zone defining said first zone and an absorbent zone defining said second zone, the absorbent 5 zone being adjacent the wetness indicating zone.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent body comprises a wetness indicating zone defining said first zone and a pair of absorbent zones defining said second zone and 5 being adjacent the wetness indicating zone, said wetness indicating zone being intermediate said absorbent zones.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 3 wherein the wetness indicating zone comprises hydrophilic fibers and each absorbent zone comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material.

5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 4 wherein the wetness indicating zone comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the concentration of superabsorbent material in the wetness indicating zone being less than the concentration of superabsorbent material in each absorbent zone.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 4 wherein the wetness indicating zone comprises a low density cellulosic fluff and each absorbent zone comprises a mixture of a high density cellulosic fluff and superabsorbent material.

7. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 5 wherein the wetness indicating zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of less than or equal to about fifteen percent by weight thereof.

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 7 wherein each absorbent zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of at least about forty percent by weight of the absorbent body.

9. (Currently amended) [[A]] The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 3 wherein the wetness indicating

zone has a width of about thirty percent to about seventy percent of the total width of the absorbent body.

10. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent body comprises an inner zone defining said first zone and an outer zone defining said second zone, the inner zone being nearer the liner than the  
5 outer zone.

11. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 10 wherein the inner zone comprises hydrophilic fibers and the outer zone comprises superabsorbent material.

12. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 11 wherein the inner zone comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the outer zone also comprising a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and  
5 superabsorbent material, the concentration of superabsorbent material in said inner zone being less than the concentration of superabsorbent material in said outer zone.

13. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 11 wherein the inner zone comprises only hydrophilic fibers.

14. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 11 wherein the outer zone comprises only superabsorbent material.

15. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 9 wherein the outer zone has a thickness of between about one percent and about seventy percent of the thickness of the absorbent body.

16. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 10 wherein the outer zone has a weight of between about twenty percent and about seventy percent by weight of the absorbent body.

17. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 16 wherein the outer zone has a weight of between about thirty-five percent and about fifty percent by weight of the absorbent body.

18. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 10 wherein the outer zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of at least about forty percent by weight thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) Toilet training pants comprising:  
an anterior region, a posterior region and a crotch region disposed longitudinally therebetween, said anterior region, posterior region and crotch region being integrally formed and  
5 configured to define a central waist opening and a pair of leg openings of said pants, the crotch region extending generally laterally between said leg openings;

10 a generally liquid permeable liner extending from the anterior region through the crotch region to the posterior region of said pants and being adapted for contiguity with the  
a wearer's skin;

an outer cover; and

15 an absorbent body between the liner and the outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body comprising a first zone and a second zone, the first zone having a lower absorbent capacity per unit weight than the second zone and being capable of facilitating the flow

of liquid body waste from the first zone back through the liner  
for indicating to the wearer the release of liquid body waste  
20 into said training pants, the absorbent body having a flowback  
after one minute according to a Flowback Test of at least about  
20 grams.

20. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as  
set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent body comprises a  
wetness indicating zone defining said first zone and an  
absorbent zone defining said second zone, the absorbent zone  
5 being adjacent the wetness indicating zone in side-by-side,  
abutting relation therewith.

21. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as  
set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent body comprises a  
wetness indicating zone defining said first zone and a pair of  
absorbent zones defining said second zone, the central wetness  
5 indicating zone being disposed between the absorbent zones in  
side-by-side, abutting relation therewith.

22. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as  
set forth in claim 21 wherein the wetness indicating zone  
comprises hydrophilic fibers and each absorbent zone comprises  
a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material.

23. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as  
set forth in claim 22 wherein the wetness indicating zone  
comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent  
material, the concentration of superabsorbent material in the  
5 wetness indicating zone being less than the concentration of  
superabsorbent material in each absorbent zone.

24. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as set forth in claim 22 wherein the wetness indicating zone comprises a low density cellulosic fluff and each absorbent zone comprises a mixture of a high density cellulosic fluff and superabsorbent material.

25. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as set forth in claim 23 wherein the wetness indicating zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of less than or equal to about fifteen percent by weight thereof.

26. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as set forth in claim 25 wherein each absorbent zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of at least about forty percent by weight thereof.

27. (Currently amended) Training The training pants as set forth in claim 21 wherein the eentral wetness indicating zone has a width of about thirty percent to about seventy percent of the width of the absorbent body.

28. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 19 wherein the absorbent body comprises an inner zone defining said first zone and an outer zone defining said second zone, the inner zone being nearer the liner than the outer zone.

29. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 28 wherein the inner zone comprises hydrophilic fibers and the outer zone comprises superabsorbent material.

30. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 29 wherein the inner zone comprises a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the outer zone also

comprising a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the concentration of superabsorbent material in said inner zone being less than the concentration of superabsorbent material in said outer zone.

31. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 29 wherein the inner zone comprises only hydrophilic fibers.

32. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 29 wherein the outer zone comprises only superabsorbent material.

33. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 28 wherein the outer zone has a thickness of between about one percent and about seventy percent of the thickness of the absorbent body.

34. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 28 wherein the outer zone has a weight of between about twenty percent and about seventy percent of the weight of the absorbent body.

35. (Withdrawn) Training pants as set forth in claim 34 wherein the outer zone has a weight of between about thirty-five percent and about fifty percent of the weight of the absorbent body.

36. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 29 wherein the outer zone has a concentration of superabsorbent material of at least about forty percent by weight of the absorbent body.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an absorbent body for a disposable absorbent article of the type having a liner, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner

and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the  
5 liner, the absorbent body having a width and comprising a  
wetness indicating zone disposed between absorbent zones in  
generally side-by-side abutting relation therewith, said method  
comprising:

concurrently depositing hydrophilic fibers and  
10 superabsorbent material on a surface to form the absorbent  
body, said hydrophilic fibers being deposited generally  
uniformly across the absorbent body, the concentration of  
superabsorbent material deposited in the wetness indicating  
zone being lower than the concentration of superabsorbent  
15 material deposited in the absorbent zones.

38. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 37 wherein  
the superabsorbent material is deposited solely in the  
absorbent zones.

39. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 37 further  
comprising the step of compacting the absorbent body, said  
compacting step comprising compacting the hydrophilic fibers in  
the wetness indicating zone less than the hydrophilic fibers in  
5 the absorbent zones.

40. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing an absorbent  
body for a disposable absorbent article of the type having a  
liner, an outer cover and an absorbent body between the liner  
and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the  
5 liner, the absorbent body having a width and comprising a  
wetness indicating zone disposed between absorbent zones in  
generally side-by-side abutting relation therewith, said method  
comprising:

concurrently depositing hydrophilic fibers and

10 superabsorbent material on a surface to form the absorbent body, the concentration of hydrophilic fibers deposited in the wetness indicating zone being greater than the concentration of fibers deposited in the absorbent zones, the concentration of superabsorbent material deposited in the wetness indicating  
15 zone being lower than the concentration of superabsorbent material deposited in each absorbent zone.

41. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 40 wherein the superabsorbent material is deposited solely in the absorbent zones.

42. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 40 further comprising the step of uniformly compacting the absorbent body whereby the hydrophilic fibers in the absorbent zones are more compacted than the hydrophilic fibers in the wetness indicating zone as the absorbent body is uniformly compacted.

43. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:  
a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;

5 an outer cover; and  
an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body comprising a mixture of hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the mixture having a concentration of  
10 superabsorbent material therein of between about one percent and about seven percent by weight of the mixture to facilitate the flow of liquid body waste from the absorbent body back through the liner for indicating to the wearer the release of liquid body waste into said article.

44. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 43 wherein the absorbent body is capable of maintaining at least about 1 gram of unabsorbed liquid body waste therein per 1 gram of absorbent body weight for a period 5 of up to about ten minutes following the release of liquid body waste into said article.

45. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 44 wherein the absorbent body is capable of maintaining at least about 1.5 grams of unabsorbed liquid body waste therein per 1 gram of absorbent body weight for a period 5 of up to about ten minutes following the release of liquid body waste into the article.

46. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:  
    a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;  
5      an outer cover; and  
    an absorbent body between the liner and outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body having a width of at least about sixty percent of the width of said article and comprising a mixture of  
10 hydrophilic fibers and superabsorbent material, the mixture having a concentration of superabsorbent material therein of between about one percent and about fifteen percent by weight of the mixture to facilitate the flow of liquid body waste from the absorbent body back through the liner for indicating to the  
15 wearer the release of liquid body waste into said article.

47. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 46 wherein the mixture has a concentration of

superabsorbent material of between about one percent and about seven percent by weight of the mixture.

48. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 46 wherein the absorbent body is capable of maintaining at least about 1 gram of unabsorbed liquid body waste therein per 1 gram of absorbent body weight for a period 5 of up to about ten minutes following the release of liquid body waste into the article.

49. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 48 wherein the absorbent body is capable of maintaining at least about 1.5 grams of unabsorbed liquid body waste therein per 1 gram of absorbent body weight for a period of up to about ten minutes following the release of liquid body waste into the article.  
*b7c* 5

50. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent body further has a flowback after five minutes according to said Flowback Test of at least about 10 grams.

51. (New) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent body further has a flowback after ten minutes according to said Flowback Test of at least about 5 grams.

52. (New) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:

a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;  
5 an outer cover; and  
an absorbent body between the liner and the outer cover

for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body comprising a first zone and a second zone, the first zone having a lower absorbent capacity per unit weight  
10 than the second zone and facilitating the flow of liquid body waste from the first zone back through the liner for indicating to the wearer the release of liquid body waste into said article, the absorbent body having a flowback after five minutes according to a Flowback Test of at least about 10  
15 grams.

53. (New) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable absorbent article comprising:

a generally liquid permeable liner adapted for contiguity with the wearer's skin;

5 an outer cover; and

an absorbent body between the liner and the outer cover for absorbing liquid body waste penetrating the liner, said absorbent body comprising a first zone and a second zone, the first zone having a lower absorbent capacity per unit weight  
10 than the second zone and facilitating the flow of liquid body waste from the first zone back through the liner for indicating to the wearer the release of liquid body waste into said article, the absorbent body having a flowback after ten minutes according to a Flowback Test of at least about 5 grams.